

The message from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is as follows:

The British High Commission in Abuja has raised the issue of the demolition of illegal housing within Abuja Federal Capital Territory with the Nigerian Government stressing the humanitarian concerns involved in the execution of such a policy. The Nigerian Minister for the Federal Capital Territory has stated that only structures built without planning permission and valid land allocation are targeted and that alternative arrangements are being made for communities affected including the offer of plots of land at subsidised rates. The UK's Department For International Development in Nigeria are in contact with the Nigerian Authorities about possible support on these issues.

The eviction of civil servants from Government Housing in Lagos is a result of a change in the remuneration package for Nigerian civil servants, as part of a wider programme of civil service reform. The entitlement to many non-monetary allowances such as free housing and vehicles has been replaced by higher salaries.

Regards
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